

Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (canceled).

22. (original) A method for portion cutting a food item, comprising the steps of:

cutting the food item into parts at a first cutting stage;

cutting the parts into pieces of predetermined weight and dimension at a second cutting stage;

scanning at least one of a shape, a structure and a dimension of the food item at the first cutting stage by a measuring means; and

determining a portion-cutting profile in connection with said scanning and on the basis of predetermined dimension and/or weight of the pieces by a processor means.

23. (original) A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 22, whereby said determining said portion-cutting profile comprises the step of planning the whole of a cutting sequence.

24. (original) A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 22, whereby at least a part of said portion-cutting profile is carried out in said first cutting stage.

25. (original) A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

feeding the item into a first cutting device, in which device the item is cut into strips in a cutting unit;

transferring the strips from the first cutting device to one or more additional cutting devices; and

cutting in the one or more additional cutting devices, in which the strips are cut into pieces of predetermined shape.

26. (currently amended) A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, ~~whereby~~ wherein other scanning of the shape, structure and/or dimension of the strips is performed in the one or more additional cutting devices.

27. (currently amended) A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, ~~whereby~~ wherein a feeding direction of said one or more additional cutting devices is different from that of said first cutting device.

28. (currently amended) A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, ~~whereby~~ wherein at least a part of said portion-cutting profile is communicated further to one or more of the additional cutting devices.

29. (original) A method for portion cutting a food

item as set forth in claim 25, wherein the feeding directions for two or more additional cutting devices lie substantially parallel with one another.

30. (original) A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, wherein a feeding direction for the one or more additional cutting devices lies substantially at right-angles to a feeding direction for the first cutting device.

31. (original) A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, further comprising the step of manually placing the food item in the first cutting device and/or manually transferring the strips to one or more of the additional cutting devices.

32. (original) A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, further comprising the step of non-manually placing the food item in the first cutting device and/or non-manually transferring the strips to one or more of the additional cutting devices.

Claim 33 (canceled).

34. (currently amended) An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 41 ~~33~~, wherein said processor is ~~means are~~ arranged to plan the whole of a cutting sequence, and thereby establish said portion-cutting profile.

35. (currently amended) An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 41 ~~33~~, wherein

said first cutting stage device is adapted to carry out at least a part of said portion-cutting profile.

36. (currently amended) An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 41 ~~33~~, wherein further measuring means are arranged in said ~~one or more additional~~ second cutting stage devices for scanning at least one of a shape, a structure and a dimension of said strips.

37. (currently amended) An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 41 ~~33~~, wherein the processor is ~~means are~~ arranged to send at least a part of the portion cutting profile further to the ~~one or more additional~~ second cutting stage devices.

38. (currently amended) An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 41 ~~33~~, which further comprises transfer means for transferring one or more of the strips from the first cutting stage device to the second ~~one or more additional~~ cutting stage devices.

39. (currently amended) An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 41 ~~33~~, which further comprises placing means for placing the food item in the first cutting stage device.

40. (currently amended) An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 41 ~~33~~, wherein a feeding direction of said one or more additional cutting devices is different from that of said first cutting device.

Claim 41 (new): An apparatus for portion cutting a food item, comprising:

a first cutting stage for cutting the food item into parts;

a second cutting stage for cutting the parts into pieces of predetermined weight and dimension;

measuring means for scanning at least one of a shape, a structure and a dimension of the food item at the first cutting stage; and

a processor for determining a portion-cutting profile in connection with said scanning and on the basis of predetermined dimension and/or weight of the pieces.

Claim 42 (new) An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set out in claim 41, wherein said second cutting stage is comprised of one or more cutting devices.